



# **Displaced Children & Orphans Fund**



PORTFOLIO SYNOPSIS

*Photo by Dan Curran, Courtesy of Food for the Hungry*

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At the close of the 20th Century, an estimated 135 million children living in developing countries lack the support and protection of parents or suitable guardians. These most vulnerable children are usually innocent victims of dire social and economic distress, disease, or conflict. The number includes perhaps more than 400,000 unaccompanied refugee or internally displaced children, 200,000 child combatants, over 100 million street children, and 34 million children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS.

The mission of the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF) is to strengthen the capacity of families and communities to provide care, support, and protection for orphans, unaccompanied minors, and war-affected children. The fund works through nongovernmental organizations (NGO) in developing countries to develop models and implement programs that provide direct service to children and support local organizations so that work can be sustained beyond the length of the grant.



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# Introduction

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**W**ith support and encouragement from Congress, the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Displaced Children and Orphans Fund began to address the needs of orphans in 1989. It soon became apparent, however, that in attempting to address the needs of orphans, the real issues were those associated with children who were living without the care or protection of a family or suitable guardian. Many orphans are in fact adopted or otherwise cared for by appropriate, substitute families. Millions of other children living without parents, however, are either abandoned on the streets or placed under inappropriate, large, long-term institutional care. As a result, the fund has focused on developing and supporting programs and methodological approaches that strengthen the capacity of families and communities to provide the necessary care, protection, and support for displaced children and orphans. The major categories for such children are as follows:

**Children Affected by War.** At the present time, no fewer than 25 civil conflicts are being waged. As a result, 500,000 children are thought to be unaccompanied or separated from their families, and some 300,000 children are thought to be participating as combatants in these conflicts. During Mozambique's 16-year war, 200,000 children were separated from their families. In Croatia, Bosnia, and Rwanda, 8,000 children lost contact with their families because of war .

**Children Orphaned by AIDS.** The HIV/AIDS pandemic strikes at adults in the productive and protective demographic heart of a population, leaving behind orphans, often in the care of older children or elderly grandparents. In just the 23 countries included in USAID's study, *Children on the Brink*, the number of children orphaned as a result of the epidemic will increase from under 25 million in 1990 to over 41 million in the year 2010, 80 percent of which will be due to HIV/AIDS.

**Street Children.** An estimated 100 million children work or live on the streets of the developed and developing worlds. These children end up on the streets as a result of social and financial distress at the family level. They are also the innocent victims of national economic and political collapse or transition. Over the past decade, the problem has worsened in terms of the loss of human potential and the detrimental impact on economic and social development. DCOF's strategies for addressing the needs of these children stress the primary importance of family and community-based care and protection as the first line of defense.

**Children with Disabilities.** This year, the fund addressed a new category of vulnerable children: children with disabilities. Stigmatized by cultural values and religious beliefs, children with disabilities are often hidden in back rooms or permanently placed in government institutions, displaced from communities and society. DCOF is supporting community-based approaches to provide care and training in life skills.

Since 1989, DCOF has contributed more than \$74,000,000 to programs in 28 countries. Projects range considerably in size and complexity. Most activities are carried out by nongovernmental organizations that help develop and strengthen the capacity of local, indigenous community-based organizations. The fund also works with international and professional organizations, including UNICEF and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and coordinates activities with major development units in USAID, such as the HIV/AIDS Division of the Global Bureau's Office of Health and Nutrition, the Office of Microenterprise Development, the Office of Transition Initiatives, the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, and the Center for Democracy and Governance, as well as all regional bureaus. Most activities have been managed by USAID field missions.



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Funds are currently being used in 12 countries with 4 new country programs expected in fiscal year 2000. With its 10-year history, DCOF can point to some of its successes:

- Children in war need to regain their childhood. The psychosocial needs of children, their need to play and act like children, are a feature of all DCOF programs, with positive examples seen in programs in Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Bosnia.
- Initiatives in Brazil, Eritrea, Guatemala, Rwanda, Thailand, and Vietnam have helped strengthen, enforce, and change policies and legislation protecting children's rights
- Post-conflict programs have helped children get back into school in Angola, Liberia, Uganda, and Sri Lanka.
- Young people who no longer fit into the formal education process have been given other training from which they earn a living in Liberia, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia.
- The plight of HIV-AIDS orphans has been highlighted with special programs that focus on their needs, as well as those of other orphans, in Malawi and Zambia.



# Country Overviews



# Angola

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**A**fter achieving independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola has endured almost a quarter century of civil war between the government forces, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), and the rebel forces, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Of the total 10.5 million population, more than 3 million people were displaced or directly affected by the war. An estimated 100,000 children have been orphaned, and large numbers of children separated from parents, attacked, or injured in land mine-related accidents. Nearly 10,000 children were forced to become soldiers. In the past year, tensions have risen and fighting has begun again. Current estimates are that a total of 800,000 people have been displaced.

USAID, through the Christian Children's Fund, has helped reintegrate more than 300,000 traumatized children into communities in eight provinces in Angola. USAID-funded projects have provided training and follow-up guidance to 4,000 adults to help children come to terms with war experiences.

USAID also funds Save the Children in Angola. USAID and Save the Children work with the Government of Angola to help document, trace, and reunite children with their families and to promote options other than institutionalization for these children.

**Project:** Initiatives for Angolan Children and Youth

**Cooperating Agency:** Christian Children's Fund (CCF)

**Funding Period:** September 18, 1995–August 31, 2001

**Amount:** \$6,747,374

**Purpose:** (1) Enable Angolans to come to terms with their war experience; (2) provide emotional and social support for violence-affected children; (3) help reintegrate nearly 300,000 war-affected children in 7 provinces and Luanda; (4) build local capacity by training approximately 4,000 adults who assist children in coming to terms with their war experience, and who encourage constructive use of both Western and traditional approaches to healing; (5) mobilize communities around the needs of children, integrating psychosocial support into wider processes of community development; and (6) recommend policies that enable healthy child development.

### **Accomplishments**

- Week-long training and follow-up support provided for 4,900 adults in 7 provinces and Luanda and in diverse organizations and sectors.
- Community-based arts activities provided to 298,000 children, 111,000 of whom were direct beneficiaries.
- Communities sensitized to how individuals are affected by war and its violent aftermath. Traditional beliefs and approaches to healing identified and strengthened.
- 107 new community projects initiated.
- Technical support provided for a parallel project on the reintegration of underage soldiers. This project assisted in the demobilization and reintegration of 4,100 former child soldiers.

**Project:** Family Tracing and Placement Programme

**Cooperating Agency:** Save The Children Fund/UK (SCF)

**Funding Period:** July 14, 1995–June 30, 2001

**Amount:** \$3,532,091

**Purpose:** Identify, register, trace, and reunite separated children with their families.

**Accomplishments**

- In government-controlled areas, 2,800 children and 400 families registered, 1,400 families traced, and 800 children reunified with their families.
- Alternative strategies continued, including foster care, therapeutic feeding, deinstitutionalization, and group homes.
- Community groups and associations developed to support community safety nets for most vulnerable children and families.
- Training workshops on the care of separated children conducted for local NGOs working in rebel-controlled areas.
- 800 demobilized child soldiers traced, mainly in rebel-controlled areas.
- Provincial policy roundtables held in 4 regions: Malange, Benguela, Huambo, and Huila.





# Brazil

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**N**early one-third of Brazilians live in poverty. The situation is particularly precarious for children and youth. Recent improvements in the country's economy have not appreciably affected the many children already living, or at risk of living, on the streets. Migration into large urban centers and an increasingly impoverished population surrounding capital cities cause children to turn to begging, informal employment, and crime.

These children are often left outside of the education system, locking them into cycles of poverty and social exclusion. Young girls are increasingly involved in prostitution or are victimized by sexual exploitation and violence. Brazil still lacks safety networks capable of supporting the implementation of unenforced legislation.

To address this situation, the USAID-funded POMMAR At-Risk Youth Project is working to create conditions and mechanisms that help at-risk children and adolescents develop as responsible citizens. Working principally through local NGOs and grassroots organizations and in collaboration with the public and private sectors, POMMAR assists young people in the north-east states of Salvador, Recife, and Fortaleza.



**Project:** At-Risk Youth Project

**Cooperating Agency:** Partners of the Americas (POMMAR)

**Funding Period:** September 29, 1994–September 30, 2000

**Amount:** \$5,360,000

**Purpose:** Working in cooperation with other international donors and Brazilian philanthropic organizations, POMMAR aims to **(1)** provide vocational training and access to education; **(2)** protect children and youth against violence; **(3)** promote reproductive health and STI/AIDS prevention; and **(4)** invest in local organizations and activities to expand NGO and government organizations' capacity to assist at-risk children and youth.

### **Accomplishments**

- More than 2,000 out-of-school children enrolled in Fortaleza public schools.
- 20 percent of youth served provided with access to formal vocational training courses in the public and private sectors.
- More than 800 cases of sexual exploitation identified and addressed as a result of the Bahia state campaign against sexual violence.



# Democratic Republic of the Congo

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**A**s in most large cities, the problems facing street children in Congo's capital of Kinshasa are vast. But in Kinshasa, such children face a particularly harsh environment. Kinshasa's economy is moribund after decades of decline, and in the mid-1990's, waves of looting and destruction devastated the city. An already difficult situation was exacerbated in 1997 by the war in Brazzaville, just across the river, and in fall 1998, a new rebellion brought fighting to Kinshasa. With the signing of a July 1999 Peace Accord, political and social conditions may improve.

The number of Kinshasa's street children is difficult to gauge. In 1990, at least 5,000 children were living on the street. These children support themselves through begging, petty trade, and crime, and are susceptible to prostitution and enforced recruitment into military and criminal groups.

Through a new grant to Save the Children, USAID is striving to assist the street children of Kinshasa by partnering with local organizations who are already addressing the needs of these children. It is anticipated that this activity will expand to address the needs of other displaced children and youth in other parts of Congo, as political and security conditions permit.

**Project:** Social Welfare, Children Rights and Protection of Kinshasa's Street Children

**Cooperating Agency:** Save the Children Fund/UK (SCF)

**Funding Period:** February 25, 1999–February 28, 2001

**Amount:** \$1,130,000

**Purpose:** Using a participatory approach, the program will work with local organizations that are already addressing the needs of street children and that have functioning administrative systems. Phase I is expected to last four months.

### **Objectives**

- Job-training workshops of each NGO strengthened.
- Immediate financial assistance provided to NGO's for transportation and center operating costs.
- Basic nutrition training conducted.
- Data gathered and report produced on the situation of street children.



# Eritrea

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**A**s a result of a 30-year struggle for independence, repeated droughts, famine, and critical health problems, Eritrea faces great challenges. Among these challenges is the plight of an estimated 90,000 unaccompanied children. These children often grow up outside the traditional family unit, at risk of not receiving the care necessary to develop into productive members of Eritrean society.

In 1992, to address the psychosocial and economic needs of orphans, the Ministry of Labor and Human Welfare adopted a policy that included the goal of reunifying as many orphans as possible with close blood relatives. Thus far, more than 9,000 children have been reunited with their extended families. Along with continuing reunification efforts, the ministry plans to pursue other options for children, such as foster care, adoption, and group homes.

USAID, through the Eritrean Unaccompanied Children's Project, strives to increase the capacity of unaccompanied children and their caregivers to become productive participants in the economic and social rebuilding of Eritrean society.

**Project:** The Eritrean Unaccompanied Children's Project

**Cooperating Agency:** International Child Resource Institute (ICRI)

**Funding Period:** September 30, 1996–September 29, 1999

**Amount:** \$600,000

**Purpose:** Collaborate with ministries, indigenous groups, and international development agencies to fill the gaps in the current placement system to ensure that all Eritrean unaccompanied children have access to high-quality care. The Ministry of Labor and Human Welfare (MLHW) is the main governmental body entrusted with the duties and responsibilities for social care of all vulnerable groups.

### **Accomplishments**

- Approximately 9,000 children traced and placed with extended family members.
- Economic development pilot projects initiated to provide ongoing support to families caring for unaccompanied children.
- Training and support services provided to extended family members to accommodate orphaned children.
- Technical assistance and training provided to project social workers.
- Methods of alternative care such as foster care and group homes instigated.



# Ethiopia

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**R**ecurrent drought, famine, poverty, and almost three decades of civil war have ravaged the people of Ethiopia, especially Ethiopia's children. An estimated 5 million Ethiopian children are said to be street children, orphans, victims of armed conflict, child workers, or youth trapped in prostitution. As many as 500,000 children have HIV/AIDS, 620,000 will have the disease by the year 2000, and 1.8 million will have the disease by the year 2009.

Compounding these problems is the present border conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. This conflict will likely increase the number of displaced children and orphans, with an additional 1.2 million children orphaned or considered highly vulnerable to the existing situation.

With funding from DCOF, Private Agencies Collaborating Together (PACT) implements the Ethiopian NGO Sector Enhancement Initiative project to improve the capacity of Ethiopian NGOs engaged in activities that assist children who have been displaced or orphaned as a result of war, HIV/AIDS, or other socioeconomic factors.

**Project:** NGO Sector Enhancement Initiative

**Cooperating Agency:** Private Agencies Collaborating Together (PACT)

**Funding Period:** July 31, 1995–March 30, 2002

**Amount:** \$1,345,000

**Purpose:** (1) Enhance the capacity of nongovernmental organizations working with children at risk, orphans, street children, and war-affected children; (2) improve the enabling environment in which NGOs operate in the country; and (3) support umbrella and networking groups that take a proactive approach in representing and supporting members.

### **Accomplishments**

- Needs assessment conducted to identify NGOs working in the areas of street children, orphans, and children at risk.
- National indicators developed for NGOs and concerned governmental organizations.
- Orphans network established representing both government and NGOs.
- 20 local NGOs assisted in areas of organizational capacity to effectively carry out their programs.
- 45 strategic action grants totaling over \$230,000 awarded to NGOs to implement a variety of projects, including non-formal education programs, microcredit services, income-generation schemes, reintegration of orphaned children into school, skills training for orphaned children, and street children prevention programs.



# Liberia

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**S**even years of war have devastated the children of Liberia. Their lives have been dominated by violence, hunger, and homelessness. They have been displaced, separated from their families, or orphaned. Many have been subject to forced recruitment, child labor, and child prostitution. Others have moved to the streets, often turning to drugs and crime.

A significant number of children actively participated in the war—an estimated 5,000 of approximately 33,000 combatants. During the disarmament and demobilization exercise in 1996–97, a total of 4,300 child combatants were demobilized. Although the majority went back to their communities, about 20 percent had to be temporarily placed in transit homes while family tracing and alternative placements were pursued. It has since surfaced that an even larger number of children were never formally demobilized.

With its UNICEF-implemented War Affected Youth Support (WAYS) Project, USAID has supported the reintegration into civil society of demobilized child soldiers and displaced youths. The program offers psychosocial and physical rehabilitation programs and educational and training opportunities. As with all war-related programs, the first step involves a tracing component to assist in reuniting children with their families.



**Project:** War Affected Youth Support (WAYS) Project

**Cooperating Agency:** UNICEF

**Funding Period:** September 30, 1994–December 31, 1999

**Amount:** \$2,700,000

**Purpose:** Collaborate with local and international NGO partners to **(1)** provide basic literacy training, small enterprise development, and other income-generating services for youth; **(2)** support demobilization efforts by providing trauma counseling, referring war-affected youth to educational programs, placing youth in transit homes while tracing and reunifying families, and organizing youth empowerment workshops; **(3)** assist local NGO partners to reintegrate former child soldiers and other war-affected children with communities; and **(4)** provide professional care for traumatized war-affected children.

### **Accomplishments**

- 22 centers established to facilitate the delivery of vocational and literacy training, counseling, and tracing services.
- 3,600 war-affected youth enrolled in the WAYS program; 2,700 youth have completed the program.
- Local NGO partners provided with technical and financial support for demobilization and reintegration activities.
- Approximately 200 counselors trained in trauma counseling through the AME Zion Community College.
- 6 transit homes set up and operated with Don Bosco and Save the Children (UK) for children not yet reunited with their families or communities.

**Displaced Children & Orphans Fund Project Locations**





# Malawi

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**M**alawi's estimated adult HIV prevalence rate is 14 percent, one of the highest in the world. More than 1 million of Malawi's 11 million people are currently HIV positive. It is predicted that by the year 2000, more than 450,000 Malawians will have died from AIDS and approximately 1.2 million children—27 percent of the child population—will have lost one or both parents.

The increasing numbers of sick and dying adults and orphaned children have placed an enormous burden on Malawian families and communities, most of which are already impoverished. For Malawian families, the psychosocial distress of watching a loved one's well-being slowly deteriorate is compounded by economic stress as household resources are exhausted.

In Malawi, the USAID-funded Community-Based Options for Protection and Empowerment (COPE) program implemented by Save the Children has provided a relatively low-cost community mobilization program to mitigate the impact of the AIDS epidemic on the lives and general welfare of children and families made vulnerable by this devastating pandemic.

**Project:** Community-Based Options for Protection and Empowerment (COPE)

**Cooperating Agency:** Save the Children Federation/US (SCF)

**Funding Period:** September 26, 1997–September 30, 2000

**Amount:** \$1,121,332

**Purpose:** (1) Strengthen community capacities to mitigate the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on children and families in the 30 catchment areas of 6 districts in Malawi; (2) identify, assist, and protect orphans and vulnerable children; (3) increase the economic opportunities and resources available to especially vulnerable households; (4) strengthen the capacity of government and community-based organizations to lead and sustain effective community responses to the needs of HIV/AIDS-affected children and families; and (5) advocate at the national, district, and local levels for policy change that benefits children and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

### **Accomplishments**

- 164 Village AIDS Committees mobilized by Community Action Committees, 131 of which are registering orphans and other vulnerable children.
- 270 patients identified by Village AIDS Committees as needing home care.
- 887 youth actively participating in youth clubs.
- Almost \$5,000 raised by the District AIDS Coordinating Committees and technical subcommittees through local fundraising.



# Sierra Leone

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**T**housands of children have been killed or injured in the war in Sierra Leone. In Freetown alone, approximately 3,700 children are separated from their families, and an additional—perhaps larger—number of children are currently separated from their families and serving with the rebel or civilian defense forces. In 1997, at least half of the estimated 6,000 rebel soldiers were thought to be children.

The psychological impacts of war on former child soldiers are harder to detect, and potentially more debilitating, than physical trauma. These impacts appear to be greatest when a child's war experience undermines his or her social connections.

In Sierra Leone, USAID's War-Affected Children Project sets the goal of reuniting and reintegrating unaccompanied children with their families and communities. The project seeks to strengthen Sierra Leone's Child Protection Network, which guides the demobilization and social reintegration of child soldiers and stresses family reunification as the principal factor in social reintegration. Community sensitization and mediation by advocates for the children and the involvement of traditional and religious leaders are foreseen as important parts of the process.

**Project:** War-Affected Children Project

**Cooperating Agency:** UNICEF

**Funding Period:** February 9, 1999–February 28, 2001

**Amount:** \$1,500,000

**Purpose:** (1) Reunite and reintegrate unaccompanied children with their families and communities; (2) develop long-term arrangements for unaccompanied children who cannot be reunified with their families and communities; (3) ensure that unaccompanied and other vulnerable children have access to basic education, primary health care, and safe water; (4) strengthen the capacity of the Child Protection Network, including the capacity of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs to sustain quality follow-up of war-affected children; and (5) produce a compendium of best practices on interim care, reunification, and reintegration of war-affected children.

### **Objectives**

- 2,500 unaccompanied children traced and reunited with their families.
- Alternative long-term arrangements developed for more than 500 unaccompanied children who cannot be reunified with their families.
- Unaccompanied children provided with access to basic education, primary health care, and safe water.
- Capacity of the Child Protection Network strengthened to sustain quality follow-up of war-affected children.
- Compendium of best practices on interim care, reunification, and reintegration of war-affected children produced.



# Sri Lanka

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**I**n 1983, armed conflict exploded in Sri Lanka. Since then, the country has endured a brutal civil war between the government, backed by the mostly Buddhist Sinhalese majority, and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who seek a separate homeland for the Tamil minority in the North and East.

More than 54,000 people have died in this civil war, more than 1 million have been displaced, and thousands have disappeared. Although many groups have been affected by the ethnic strife, none have been more traumatized than the children. Children have been drawn into the conflict in many ways: many have been killed and maimed, thousands have witnessed violence, and scores have lost parents and loved ones.

In Sri Lanka, USAID aims to facilitate reintegration and increase participation of people who are disadvantaged, primarily by the ethnic conflict. USAID promotes activities that mobilize communities to provide formal and non-formal activities to promote the psychosocial health of children affected by the stress and trauma of war.

**Project:** Citizens Participation Project (CPP)

**Cooperating Agency:** Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya Inc. (Sarvodaya)

**Funding Period:** October 11, 1996–February 28, 2000

**Amount:** \$196,115

**Purpose:** Sarvodaya was founded in 1958 as a movement based on Gandhian values of truth, nonviolence, and self-sacrifice. Its goal is the creation of a society that is neither poor nor affluent. Sarvodaya is the largest nongovernmental, voluntary organization in Sri Lanka. Sarvodaya targets villages and internally displaced persons (IDP) centers identified as high-trauma areas. Its purpose is to promote the psychosocial well-being of children who have been exposed to extreme violence and stress as a result of the ongoing conflict. The project promotes community-based healing processes. This organization works in 106 villages, with more than 6,000 children.

Through its activities, Sarvodaya seeks to **(1)** reach children under the age of 16 living in 6 districts affected by the conflict, and initiate culturally appropriate and community-based healing processes that incorporate art, music, and creative play; **(2)** raise awareness of the psychological effects of the war on children among policymakers and administrators; and **(3)** promote ethnic harmony by promoting interaction among children belonging to Sinhala, Tamil, and Muslim communities.

### **Accomplishments**

- More than 7,000 children participated in community-based activities including facilitated psychosocial interventions. Observers report that these interventions have reduced symptoms of trauma.
- Sarvodaya's holistic, community-based program recently chosen as a national model by the Presidential Task Force on Human Disaster Management.



**Project:** Citizens Participation Project (CPP)

**Cooperating Agency:** Salesian Missions of Don Bosco

**Funding Period:** April 1, 1997–June 30, 2000

**Amount:** \$286,815

**Purpose:** Provide positive opportunities to vulnerable children in Negombo's fishing community at risk from child prostitution and HIV/AIDS.

**Accomplishments**

- 155 boys accepted into the 1999 vocation training classes.
- 2,400 boys participated in recreational and drama activities.
- 50 children temporarily living in a hostel while attending school.
- 180 boys in tutoring classes improved their grade point averages.

**Project:** Citizens Participation Project (CPP)

**Cooperating Agency:** Terre Des Hommes (TdH)

**Funding Period:** July 1, 1997–December 31, 1999

**Amount:** \$76,245

**Purpose:** **(1)** Directly address the psychosocial needs of children affected by the conflict through the provision of preschool education, alternative education, and after-school play activities; **(2)** provide home-based care for children without families or where alternative care is not possible; and **(3)** develop community-based organizations in each area where Terre Des Hommes is active.

Terre Des Hommes works in three districts: Batticaloa in the East, Trincomalee in the Northeast, and Nuwara Eliya in the central district. Both Batticaloa and Trincomalee are high-risk, conflict zones. Project staff and volunteers face continued risks to provide services in these areas. With its 16 local partners, the Terre Des Hommes program emphasizes community ownership and participation.

### **Accomplishments**

- Approximately 2,800 children and young people active in 7 preschool and 25 after-school activity groups. More than 75 percent are daily participants.
- More than 430 children ages 3 to 6 participate in preschool education. To date, these schools have 100 percent admission to primary schools.
- Local community-based organizations created, serving more than 600 children.



# Uganda

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**D**uring the 1970's and 1980's, Uganda suffered misrule and insecurity that disrupted its social and economic development. In the 1980's and 1990's, effective government and widespread peace have enabled renewed progress. But this progress has been impeded in the North, where a so-called rebel movement has proved remarkably resilient. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has for the last 12 years, carried out attacks on the civilian population of northern Uganda, primarily in the Gulu and Kitgum Districts. These attacks have included the abduction of at least 8,000 children who have been forced to fight with the rebels or become wives of the commanders.

The LRA's motives, other than to destabilize, are unclear. The army appears to be supported and supplied by the Sudanese Government. Attempts by the Ugandan army to counter the LRA's offensives have led to periodic clashes but have so far failed to significantly reduce the scale of the problem.

USAID is supporting Red Barnet to implement a project that strives to reintegrate formerly abducted children into their families and communities. The project supports capacity building for implementing partners, project management and coordination, and monitoring and evaluation of results.

**Project:** Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Children Affected by Armed Conflict in Northern Uganda

**Cooperating Agency:** Red Barnet (Danish Save the Children)

**Funding Period:** April 8, 1999–April 8, 2001

**Amount:** \$1,363,997

**Purpose:** To improve the process for reintegrating formerly abducted children into their families and communities.

**Objectives**

- Capacity of families and communities enhanced to recognize and respond to needs of children affected by armed conflict.
- Structured community-based activities established involving former abductees along with other children in their communities.
- Availability, quality, and appropriateness of formal primary education enhanced.
- Apprenticeships and other forms of community-based hands-on training developed and supported.



# Vietnam

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**A**ccording to the Vietnamese government and UNICEF estimates, more than 1 million Vietnamese children (3 percent of the child population) have physical or mental disabilities. Many of these children are cut off from social, recreational, educational, and other normal childhood activities. Many others are at risk of being displaced as a result of parental death, abandonment, or poverty. Physically or mentally impaired children suffer further due to their inability to support themselves. They are often stigmatized by cultural values and religious beliefs.

Vietnam is currently unable to meet the social, psychological, and economic needs of these children. In 1997, USAID launched a “children with disabilities” initiative to provide noninstitutional services for children with special needs. Under this initiative, USAID has awarded grants to Catholic Relief Services, the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, World Concern Development Organization, and World Vision. In addition, DCOF continues to support a program managed by Health and Education Volunteers (HEV) that assists displaced children.

**Project:** Expansion of Community Support for Children with Disabilities

**Cooperating Agency:** Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

**Funding Period:** July 31, 1998–July 31, 2001

**Amount:** \$882,652

**Purpose:** In 1995, CRS, in partnership with the National Institute for Educational Sciences Center for Special Education, began demonstrating models of inclusive education and community support in two northern districts outside of Hanoi. In addition to showing social and academic gains, these models illustrated that mainstreaming disabled children provided a cost savings of nearly 86 percent, compared to the cost of institutionalization.

Through its current activities, CRS strives to **(1)** broaden the support for children with disabilities in Vietnam through inclusive education, strengthening of community support, and increased awareness and advocacy; **(2)** implement inclusive education, from preschool to lower secondary schools, in 3 northern districts; **(3)** train 60 community support teams in basic rehabilitation techniques and advocacy; **(4)** establish three district-level support teams and resource centers for teachers, parents, and community workers involved in rehabilitating children with disabilities; and **(5)** establish and broaden strategic links with Vietnamese institutions, international organizations, and the mass media.

### Objectives

- Inclusive educational program expanded to 3 additional provinces.
- Direct training provided to 270 pre-, primary-, and intermediate-school-level teachers. Indirect training provided through curriculum enhancement to 600 graduates of 3 national training colleges.
- District- and community-level support systems established.

**Project:** Inclusive Education for Hearing Impaired and Deaf Children in Vietnam

**Cooperating Agency:** Pearl S. Buck Foundation (PSB)

**Funding Period:** August 18, 1998–July 31, 2001

**Amount:** \$1,448,395

**Purpose:** (1) Increase access to educational services and opportunities for deaf and other hearing-impaired children; (2) provide screening, assessment for hearing impairment and deafness, and appropriate referral for service interventions to children in six provinces; (3) identify, test, and fit deaf and hearing-impaired children with hearing aids and provide suitable education; (4) train pre- and primary school teachers to assist hearing-impaired and deaf children and their families; and (5) complete and disseminate the Vietnamese Sign Language Dictionary.

### **Objectives**

- Direct service intervention provided to more than 10,000 children.
- Standardized training conducted for 280 kindergarten and elementary school teachers, and a cadre of audiological, speech, and language specialists prepared.
- Existing educational infrastructure mobilized to deliver deaf education and related services through curriculum development for both educators and communities at large.
- Internationally accepted, indigenous Vietnamese sign language manual and training program recorded, documented, and promoted.

**Project:** Displaced Children's Project

**Cooperating Agency:** Health and Education Volunteers Project (HEV)

**Funding Period:** October 1, 1994–September 30, 2000

**Amount:** \$1,180,030

**Purpose:** Improve the health, education, and daily existence of Vietnam's poorest children by **(1)** using a holistic approach and interagency collaboration, **(2)** ensuring community participation, and **(3)** instituting and sustaining income-generating programs.

### **Objectives**

- Direct service interventions provided, including community-based placement and income-generation activities, alternative education, vocational education, and placement for approximately 3,000 children and their families in 3 provinces.
- “Back to school” enrollment increased among children in difficult circumstances.
- Program and system development promoted within the Vietnamese child welfare community through operational demonstrations, training, resource mobilization, and technical assistance.
- Community participation and private sector involvement promoted in coordinating and providing services to children.



**Project:** The Adaptive Vocational Training Program for Adolescents with Disabilities

**Cooperating Agency:** World Concern Development Organization (WCDO)

**Funding Period:** September 30, 1998–December 31, 2000

**Amount:** \$1,103,947

**Purpose:** Provide adolescents with disabilities (AWD) with the skills and abilities necessary to meet their own social, vocational, and economic needs. The program will **(1)** develop an awareness of and responsiveness to disability issues, **(2)** develop adaptive vocational training programs, **(3)** increase access to employment and income-generation programs, and **(4)** facilitate the formation of a supportive social network managed by AWD. The project will begin in two provinces—Hai Duong in the North and Quang Nam in the central region—and will be replicated in one additional location in Da Nang City in the third year.

### **Objectives**

- Program personnel, trainers, employers, and members of target communities demonstrate an increased awareness of disability issues, a more positive attitude, and improved practices as they relate to AWDs.
- Formal training courses at target vocational centers in place for AWDs.
- Self-sufficiency and income generation increased for AWDs who successfully complete the vocational training courses.
- Support systems and networks formed for AWDs and their families.

**Project:** Ho Chi Minh City Assistance to Children with Disability

**Cooperative Agency:** World Vision (WV)

**Funding Period:** October 1, 1998–September 30, 2001

**Amount:** \$804,798

**Purpose:** Establish a community-based rehabilitation service system that, during the course of the project, enables children with disabilities to function more independently in their environment. The service system will be defined and assessed by the World Health Organization Functional Assessment Scale in eight wards of District 8 in Ho Chi Minh City.

### **Objectives**

- WHO CBR model for training people with disabilities implemented in the community.
- Measures taken at the community level to build and use resources to address both the prevention of disabilities and the provision of rehabilitation and other needed services to individuals with disabilities.
  - CBR services established in District 8 of Ho Chi Minh City.
  - Rehabilitative interventions developed to assist children with disabilities to function more independently in their homes and communities.
  - Prevalence of malnutrition decreased among children with disabilities.



# Zambia

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**Z**ambia has one of the most severe HIV/AIDS epidemics in the world. Families and communities are struggling to cope with HIV/AIDS-related deaths and morbidity. One of the most tragic results of the epidemic is the increasing number of orphans and vulnerable children. The proportion of children under 15 who are orphaned is expected to rise to over 34 percent by the year 2000—representing a staggering 1.6 million young people. Even if HIV prevalence does not rise any further, the orphan population will continue to increase such that by the year 2020, between 35 and 40 percent of the population under age 15 will be orphaned.

The growing number of orphans threatens to undermine Zambia's economic growth and development and to undo the recent achievements Zambia has made in child, family, and community health. Interventions to respond to the AIDS orphans problem will need to focus on entire communities, not just families with parents afflicted by HIV/AIDS.

Through a grant from USAID, Project Concern International's (PCI) program to assist orphans and vulnerable children has worked to identify low-cost, sustainable approaches to strengthen family and community capacity to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS.

**Project:** Program of Assistance to Orphans and Vulnerable Children

**Cooperating Agency:** Project Concern International (PCI)

**Funding Period:** January 1, 1998–December 30, 1999

**Amount:** \$3,000,000

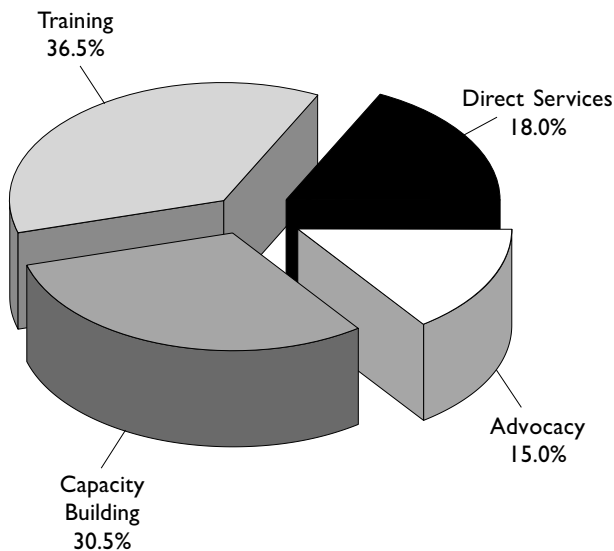
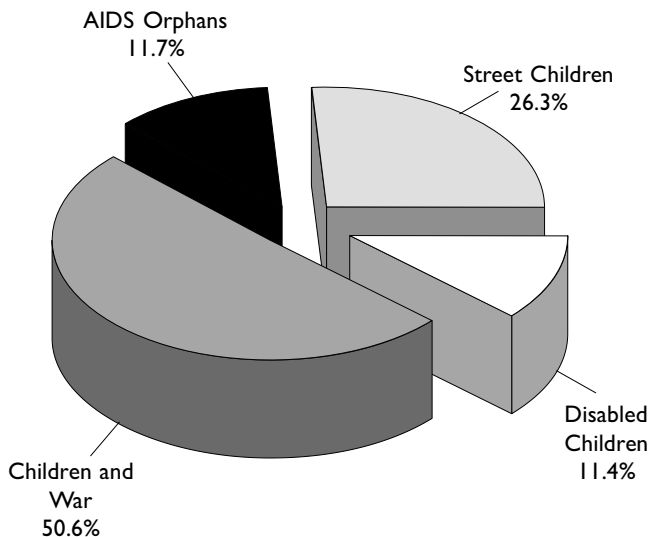
**Purpose:** (1) Mobilize and strengthen low-cost community-based sustainable approaches and interventions to protect and improve the health, safety, and development of orphans and vulnerable children; (2) increase service delivery to orphans and other vulnerable children and their families; (3) work with key ministries and other stakeholders to improve child welfare policies and regulations; (4) increase the delivery of health interventions for orphans and vulnerable children at the household and community level; and (5) strengthen the capacity of NGOs, CBOs, and government institutions to undertake activities related to orphans and vulnerable children.

### **Accomplishments**

- 14 communities with a total population of more than 100,000 mobilized to respond with local resources to the needs of more than 5,000 orphans.
- 14 community-based committees organized to plan interventions and continue mobilizing community participation.
- More than 1,000 children enrolled in 7 new community schools.

## Who does the fund serve?

Although no distinct lines divide these programs, these are the main characteristics of how DCOF funds are spent.



## What types of activities does the fund support?

# Cooperating Agencies

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## **Catholic Relief Services**

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**Save the Children (DRC program)**

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## DCOF Funding 1992 – 1999

Countries	Yearly Funding in 000's								
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total
USAID Allocation	8,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	8,500	10,000	10,000	11,000	
Albania			100						\$100
Angola			970	2,000	1,940	1,225	750	500	\$7,385
Bolivia	250			170					\$620
Brazil		75	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	600	932	\$6,607
Congo							1,000		\$1,000
Croatia							500		\$500
El Salvador		505	200	830		700			\$2,235
Eritrea					600				\$600
Ethiopia		200		500		500		345	\$3,478
Former Yugoslavia		750	250	250	1,300		500		\$3,050
Guatemala	500	2,225	775						\$3,800
Indonesia	180		244	650					\$2,280
Lebanon		500	500						\$1,000
Liberia			1,107		700	1,000	1,000		\$3,807
Madagascar									\$755
Malawi				538		750		200	\$1,788
Mozambique	1,820	2,000	100						\$7,177
Nepal	200		400						\$800
Peru		300	250		120			250	\$1,070
Philippines	300								\$300
Rwanda	250		1,000	1,462	610		1,000		\$4,322
Sierra Leone							1,500		\$1,500
Sri Lanka				300	200	300	300	300	\$1,650
Sudan									\$159
Swaziland	61								\$61
Thailand	310								\$600
Uganda	500	2,000		500		500	500	1,000	\$6,175
Vietnam	1,500	1,250	1,720	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	\$11,970
Zambia						2,000	750	750	\$3,500
Peace Corps		150	150	100	100	200		300	\$1,000
Technical Assist.	250		250	200	430	650	1,100		\$3,080
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,121</b>	<b>\$9,955</b>	<b>\$10,016</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$8,500</b>	<b>\$10,325</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>	<b>\$6,077</b>	<b>\$82,369*</b>

\* Total includes funding from prior years:

1988 = \$1,000,000

1989 = \$1,500,000

1990 = \$3,500,000

1991 = \$5,000,000





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